

Improving Care and Outcomes for Cancer Survivors from Sexual and Gender Minority (SGM) Populations

PAR Concept Presentation to BSA/NCAB

*David Dean Jr, PhD, MS
Ann Geiger, PhD, MPH
Amy Kennedy, PhD, MPH
Ashley Wilder Smith, PhD, MPH*

DCCPS team with support from CRCHD, DCP, DCTD, OHAM, NIH SGMRO



SGM Cancer Risk, Risk Factors, and Survivorship

- More likely to have a **cancer diagnosis**, with higher rates of **certain cancers**
- Less likely to **seek cancer care**
- Disproportionately more **challenges during cancer care**
- SGM cancer survivors are more likely to have **poorer health outcomes**

SGM-specific Concerns in Cancer Care Delivery

- **Fear of disclosing** SGM identity status in cancer care settings
- **Stigmatization and discrimination** due to SGM identity
 - (e.g., prostate cancer standard-of-care treatment options)
- **Intersectionality** of multiple minoritized identities
- **Knowledge gaps** among oncology providers for SGM patients
- **Economic strains** associated with SGM identity

Purpose of the PAR

- Fund **observational and intervention research** to:
 - **further understand and address predictors** of SGM disparities in cancer care
 - **support innovative, feasible and effective interventions** to address SGM disparities in cancer care
- Including:
 - systematic **sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI)** measurement
 - identified **endpoints of interest** in cancer control

Key Scientific Areas for SGM Cancer Survivors

1. Understanding and/or addressing **barriers to cancer treatment and follow-up care**
2. Approaches to address risk factors for **poorer mental and physical health outcomes**
3. Testing interventions focusing on providers to **improve cancer care**

Sample Research Topics

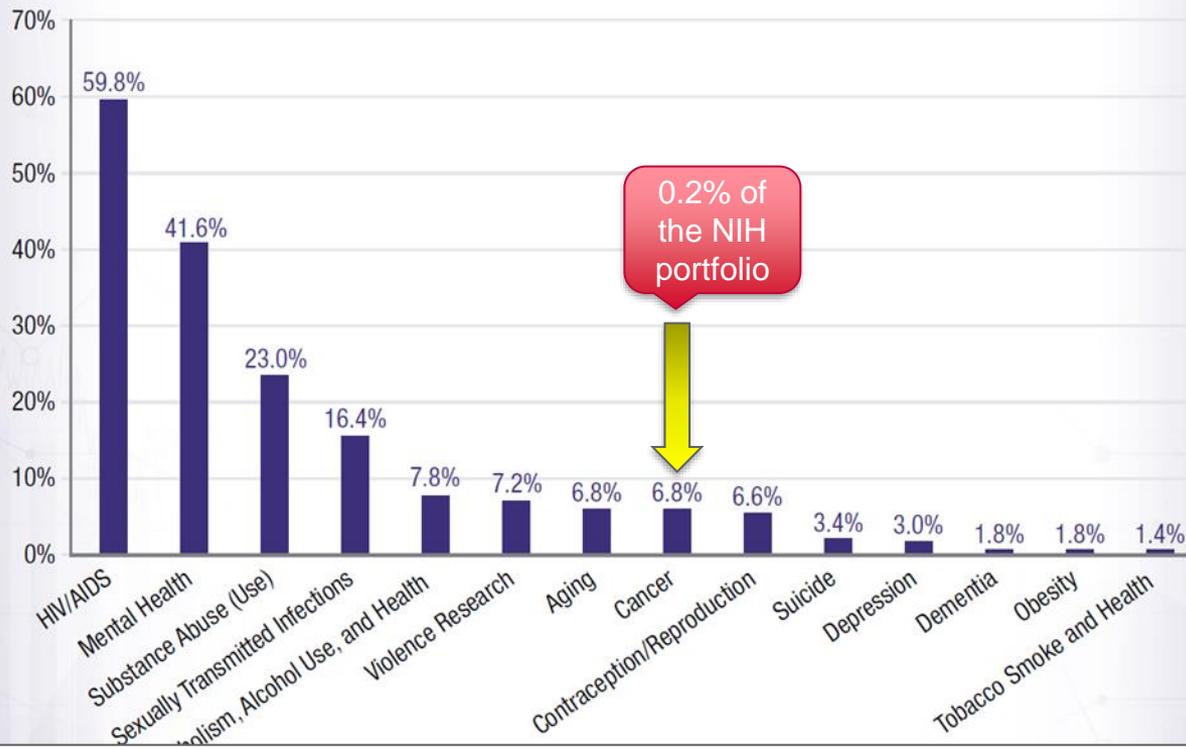
- Studies investigating **barriers, such as discrimination and mistrust, faced by SGM cancer survivors – particularly with multiple minoritized identities** – that affect treatment and follow-up care
- Research to understand and address **oncology care providers' SGM-related knowledge gaps**
- Testing **individual- and system-level interventions** focused on managing symptoms, functioning, and well-being for SGM survivors
- Studies of **transgender and gender-nonconforming individuals** to understand gender-affirming care and cancer treatment

Requirements

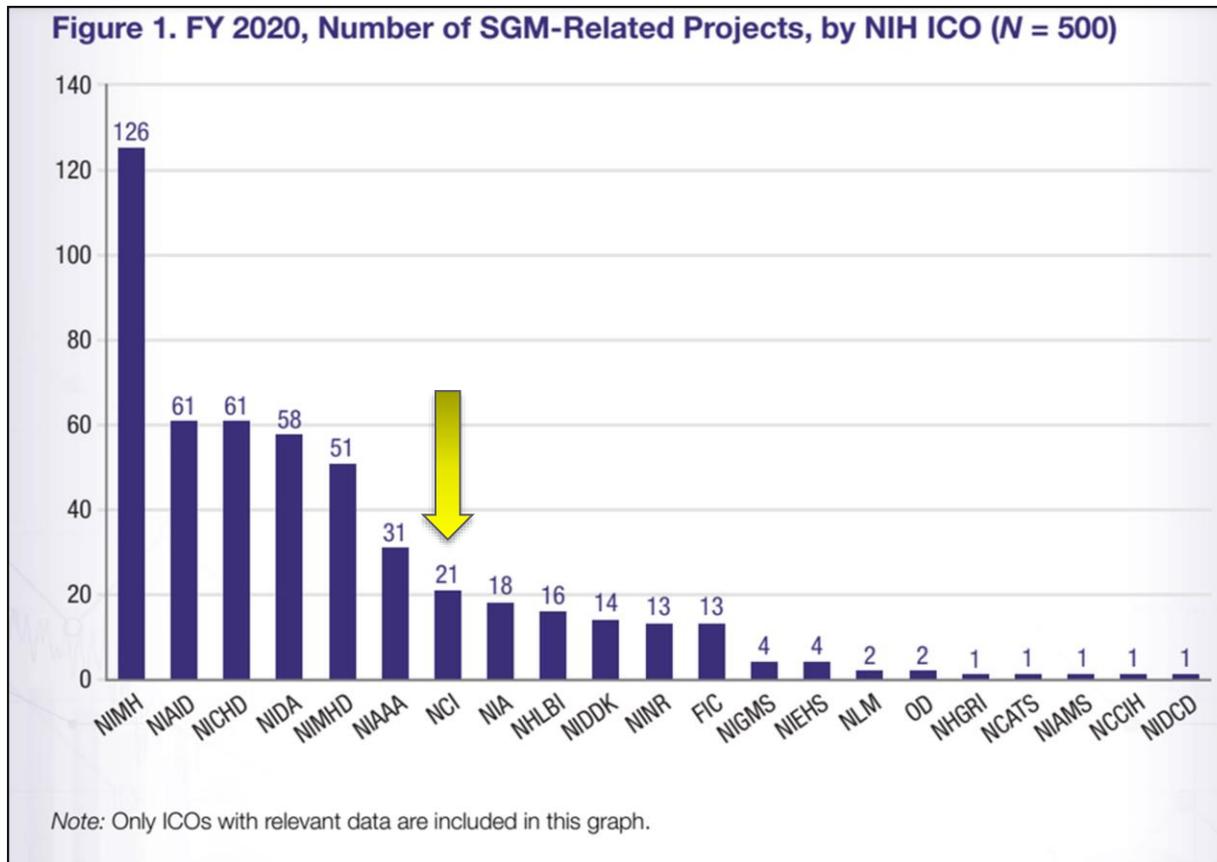
- Address a **pressing need and/or gap** in SGM cancer research
- Include a **resource and data sharing plan**
- Describe an **existing or planned standardized SOGI data collection** process
- Include **community partner engagement**

NIH Grants Focused on SGMs by Disease Category

Figure 6. FY 2020, Proportion of SGM Projects, by Research, Condition, and Disease Category (N = 500)



NIH Grants Focused on SGMs by ICO



Portfolio Analysis (FY 2017-2022)

- NCI-funded, SGM-focused grants:
 - **Five** studied SGM individuals post-cancer diagnosis
 - **Two** focused on SGM cancer care delivery topics
- NOSI on “Research on the Health of Sexual and Gender Minority Populations” ([NOT-MD-22-012](#)) addresses broad health areas, **without cancer emphasis**
- CCSG administrative supplements (awarded in 2022) to support the implementation of SOGI measures

PAR justification

- **Lack robust NCI research** in SGM populations
- **Current NOFOs do not address** cancer care and health outcomes for SGM cancer survivors
- **Demonstrate NCI's commitment** to increasing and accelerating cancer control research for SGM survivors

BSA Reviewers: Gloria Coronado, Chyke Doubeni, Ana Maria Lopez

- **Broad scope:** PAR concept is broad but reflects an appropriate effort to catalyze research on SGM population cancer survivorship issues
- **Terminology:** strong support for defining terms, such as LGBTQ+ and SGM; suggest minor clarifications
- **Intersectionality:** clearly acknowledge the importance of addressing the complexity of multiple minoritized identities and impact on care and outcomes in proposals
- **Defining outcomes:** focus on advancing care and care-seeking to improve health outcomes in SGM cancer survivors
- **Community partner engagement:** clarify the community members necessary to engage in research with this population, including intersectional identity issues
- **Policy issues:** acknowledge the current legislative and policy barriers to conducting SGM-specific research

Conclusion

- SGM experience **widespread discrimination and associated disparities** in cancer care and outcomes.
- These have been attributed to treatment and survivorship **care that fails to address SGM-specific needs.**
- This PAR represents an opportunity to **characterize and address SGM cancer health disparities.**



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